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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/749,157	12/30/2003	Gurjeet K. Jaggi	03855 (3883.00030)	7847
35374	7590	05/26/2006	EXAMINER	
LEAR CORPORATION, BLISS MCGLYNN, P.C. 2075 WEST BIG BEAVER ROAD SUITE 600 TROY, MI 48084			WOLLSCHLAGER, JEFFREY MICHAEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1732	

DATE MAILED: 05/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/749,157	Applicant(s) JAGGI, GURJEET K.	
	Examiner Jeff Wollschlager	Art Unit 1732	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2, and 4-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The amendment to claim 1 filed April 10, 2006 has been accepted. The 35 U.S.C 112 second paragraph rejection has been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dooley et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication published November 18, 2004; filed May 16, 2003).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Regarding claim 1, Dooley et al. (hereafter Dooley) teach a method of manufacturing a trim panel assembly for the interior of a vehicle having integrated trim panel component(s) (Title, Abstract, Figure 1) comprising the steps: providing a die including a pair of die halves cooperating to define a mold cavity to form an interior trim panel, at least one of said die halves including a surface within the mold cavity defining a class A-surface and one of the die halves including a plurality of recesses in the cavity having a predetermined shape (paragraphs [0030-0031]); placing at least one trim panel component having a class A-side surface that is visible from the interior of a vehicle and a contact surface into said corresponding recess within the mold cavity (paragraphs [0030-0031]); injecting a molten thermoplastic material into the mold cavity to form a rigid substrate and define a class A-side surface that is visible from the interior of a vehicle (paragraphs [0027, 0030-0031] where the injection pressure of the molten thermoplastic injected into the die is less than the maximum clamp pressure of the die (paragraph [0014]) and bonding the molten thermoplastic material to the contact surface of the at least one trim panel component within the mold cavity while the rigid substrate is being formed thereby forming a vehicle interior trim panel assembly having at least one integrated trim panel component (paragraphs [0014, 0031]).

It is noted that the coverstock material having an exposed surface that is visible from the interior of a vehicle constitutes a class A-surface (paragraphs [0005-0006]).

As to claim 2, Dooley teaches the material is left to cure within the mold cavity to form a finished molded interior trim panel (paragraph [0032]) and the molded interior trim panel is removed from the mold cavity (Figure 1).

As to claims 4 and 5, Dooley teaches the step of closing the dies permits the contact surface of the trim panel to operatively engage the molten thermoplastic material and that the temperature of the injected material is less controlled at a temperature less than the melting point of the contact surface of the trim panel component (paragraph [0031]).

As to claim 6, Dooley teaches a method that includes placing a trim panel component having at least one surface visible to a vehicle interior into the corresponding recess within the mold cavity and matching the visible surface of the trim panel to the A-surface of the mold cavity (paragraph [0031]).

As to claims 7 and 8, the method taught by Dooley is such that the bond line is not visible along the A-surface of the formed rigid substrate and the bond is formed along a similar plane to provide a compact bond line reveal (paragraph [0023]; Figure 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Brodi Jr. et al (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0028131; published October 11, 2001)

Regarding claim 1, Brodi Jr. et al. (hereafter Brodi) teach a method of manufacturing a trim panel assembly for the interior of a vehicle having integrated trim panel component(s) (Title, Abstract, Figure 1) comprising the steps: providing a die including a pair of die halves cooperating to define a mold cavity to form an interior trim panel, at least one of said die halves including a surface within the mold cavity defining a class A-surface and one of the die halves including a plurality of recesses in the cavity having a predetermined shape (Figure 2, elements 32 & 34 – die halves, paragraph [0022]); placing at least one trim panel component having a class A-side surface that is visible from the interior of a vehicle and a contact surface into said corresponding recess within the mold cavity (paragraph [0022]); closing the die halves (Figure 6; paragraphs [0022-0023]); injecting a molten thermoplastic material into the mold cavity to form a rigid substrate and define a class A-side surface that is visible from the interior of a vehicle (paragraphs [0022-0024]) where the injection pressure of the molten thermoplastic injected into the die is inherently less than the maximum clamp pressure of the die in order to assure the process is operative and does not damage/destroy the die; and bonding the molten thermoplastic material to the contact surface of the at least one trim panel component within the mold cavity while the rigid substrate is being formed thereby forming a vehicle interior trim panel assembly having at least one integrated trim panel component (Figure 4 in view of Figure 3 showing the injected thermoplastic material being injected and bonding to the trim blank and plastic trim panel component).

It is noted that the trim blank is placed into the die cavity and is either pressed into the recesses of the cavity or is preformed in advance and placed into the recesses of the cavity. It is further noted that the combination of the trim blank (26) and the plastic that is deposited by extrusion form the trim panel component as exemplified in Figures 3, 5, and 6. The formation of the trim panel component is followed by a single injection-molding step that forms a rigid substrate and bonds the rigid substrate to the trim panel component and forms an integrated trim panel (paragraph [0020]).

Alternatively, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the claimed invention to set the injection pressure of the molten thermoplastic injected into the die to a pressure less than the maximum clamp pressure of the die in order to assure the process is operative and does not damage/destroy the die. As such the claimed invention as a whole is rendered *prima facie* obvious over the teaching of the prior art

As to claim 2, Brodi teaches cooling the mold, opening the mold, and removing the molded interior trim particle (paragraph [0023]). The material is intrinsically cured during this process.

As to claims 4 and 5, Brodi teaches the step of closing the dies permits the contact surface of the trim panel to operatively engage the molten thermoplastic material (Figure 4 and Figure 7). Further, the temperature of the injected material would be intrinsically controlled at a temperature less than the melting point of the contact surface (paragraphs [0020 and 0023-0025]) to ensure the trim panel component is not

damaged or loses its aesthetic qualities. Further, the temperature of the injected material would be readily optimized as is routinely practiced in the art.

As to claim 6, Brodi teaches a method that includes placing a trim panel component having at least one surface visible to a vehicle interior into the corresponding recess within the mold cavity and matching the visible surface of the trim panel to the A-surface of the mold cavity (paragraph [0022]; Figure 2).

As to claims 7 and 8, the blade (48), the recess (46) and the slide (42) work to minimize the bond line such that it is not visible along the A-surface of the formed rigid substrate and form the bond along a similar plane to provide a compact bond line reveal (paragraphs [0009, 0022]).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed March 27, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Rao et al. (U.S. Patent 5,414,037) reference is withdrawn in view of the clarification to the claims resulting from the amendment to claim 1 in response to the 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejection. The reference is no longer needed to meet the currently understood limitations of the claims.

Regarding, Brodi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,838,027), applicant argues that Brodi et al. do not disclose placing a trim panel component into a recess within a mold cavity and injecting a thermoplastic material into the mold cavity to bond the component to the injected molten thermoplastic material to form a vehicle interior trim panel assembly

having at least one integrated trim panel (page 6 of REMARKS). Applicant further argues that Brodi et al. fail to teach forming a trim panel substrate from a single injection of molten thermoplastic material (page 9 of REMARKS). The examiner does not concur with these arguments for the reasons detailed in the rejection above.

Regarding Dooley et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2004/0229013; now U.S. Patent 7,005,092), applicant argues that Dooley et al. do not place a trim panel component into a recess within a mold cavity (page 7 of REMARKS) and that the trim panel does not include a Class-A side, but provides a coverstock having an exposed surface that is visible from the interior of a vehicle (page 11 of REMARKS). The examiner does not concur with these arguments for the reasons detailed in the rejection above.

Further, since the clarifying amendment resulted in the elimination of secondary references from the previous office action, all discussions and arguments relating to a lack of motivation to combine references are moot.

Conclusion

All claims are rejected.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeff Wollschlager whose telephone number is 571-272-8937. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:00 - 4:45, alternating Fridays.

Art Unit: 1732

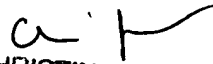
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Johnson can be reached on 571-272-1176. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JW

Jeff Wollschlager
Examiner
Art Unit 1732

May 24, 2006


CHRISTINA JOHNSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER
5/24/06